FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOLUME 15 | DECEMBER 19, 1927 | NO. 25

ARGENTINE GRAIN PRODUCTION

Argentine wheat production is officially estimated at 239,[illegible],000 bushels, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. That figure is 19,107,000 bushels above last year's harvest, but this increase is largely offset by the reduced carryover this year as compared with 1926. The balance of old crop wheat on December 10, as indicated by subtracting trade estimates of exports from the October 12 official estimate of exportable surplus, is 21,871,000 bushels as against 38,395,000 bushels a year ago. Last year, however, the large surplus included much wheat unfit for export unless mixed with considerable high quality wheat. The official figure for this year is well within the range of 210,000,000 to 260,000,000 bushels indicated by a statistical study made in this Bureau on the basis of weather conditions to December 1. This year's rye crop of 7,360,000 bushels is more than twice that of last year and 55 per cent above that of 1925. The production of barley and oats, on the other hand, is a little below that of the past two years, but well above 1924.

The flaxseed crop is estimated at 85,030,000 bushels, or 23.1 per cent above last year's crop. If confirmed by later estimates, this crop will be approximately 10,000,000 bushels above the record crop of 1925-26 when 75,113,000 bushels were harvested, and 25,000,000 bushels greater than the largest crop harvested before 1925-26. According to trade indications, exports of flaxseed from October 10 to December 3 amounted to 11,300,000 bushels, while the official estimate of exportable surplus on October 12 was only 6,100,000 bushels. The "Times of Argentina" estimated the exportable surplus on the same date to be 11,800,000 bushels. Even assuming this estimate to be correct, the balance of the old crop should be approaching a minimum. December exports last year were 4,510,000 bushels against 2,974,000 bushels in 1925 and an average of 3,138,000 bushels for that month during the past six years.

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CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS

The German pork market was again heavily supplied with hogs during the week ended December 14, according to cabled advices from L. V. Steere, acting American agricultural commissioner at Berlin. Hog prices for the week at that city averaged only $11.72 per 100 pounds, the lowest level since last May. Lard prices at Hamburg were also lower. The decline in hog and lard prices has been constant since mid-November. See table, page 8[illegible]6.

Prices of tops, yarn and piece goods at Bradford continue firm as a result of the firm prices of wool at the recent London sales, according to a cable from Consul Thompson at Bradford. Top-makers are busy on old orders, but there is little new business. As reported last week, spinners are being supplied with tops bought at prices below the current rates. Production of piece goods and semi-manufactured material is being steadily maintained.

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CROP AND MARKET PROSPECTS

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CEREAL CROPS

Wheat production

Wheat production in 38 countries is now estimated at 3,387,000,000 bushels against 3,288,000,000 in 1926. Last year those countries accounted for 96.2 per cent of the estimated total world wheat crop, exclusive of Russia and China. The estimate of wheat production in England and Wales has been revised from 51,781,000 bushels to 53,131,000 bushels. The estimate of production in Spain has also been revised upward to 146,422,000 bushels from 145,614,000 bushels. The Algerian crop is now reported at 27,557,000 bushels, a reduction of 5,500,000 bushels from the previous estimate. See table, page 830.

Russian grain procurements

Russian grain procurements from July 1 to December 1 amounted to 5,306,000 short tons as compared with 6,597,000 short tons for the same period last year, according to a cable to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Acting Agricultural Commissioner L. V. Steere at Berlin. Procurements during December were 842,000 short tons as compared with 1,897,000 short tons during December 1926. Although it is now expected that December procurements will show an increase over November, procurements up to January 1 will probably not exceed 45 per cent of the total plans for the season compared with the 70 per cent considered essential for the success of the plan. In the 1926-27 season 63 per cent of the plan was collected by January 1.

European markets

Continental grain and flour markets were weaker during the week. Large offers of domestic grain had a depressing influence on the markets in France and Germany.

The German Agricultural Council estimates that 64 per cent of the winter wheat crop, 84 per cent of the spring wheat crop and 59 per cent of the winter rye crop remained on farms November 15, according to a cable from Mr. Steere. On October 15 the farmers had held 74 per cent of the winter wheat crop, 91 per cent of the spring wheat and 70 per cent of the winter rye crop.

Southern Hemisphere conditions

Good harvest weather prevailed in Argentina during the week ending December. 12, according to reports to the United States Weather Bureau. Both the temperature and precipitation were moderate for the season, the week being slightly cool and mostly fair. Favorable harvesting weather was also reported in Western Australia, where record yields are being harvested in some places. The condition of the crop in South Australia and New South Wales has improved, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture. The Australian production estimate remains unchanged.

CROP AND MARKET PROSPECTS, CONT'D

A report from a correspondent in Sydney, Australia, as of November 15, raises the estimated crop of the country from between 88,000,000 and 100,000,000 bushels reported two weeks earlier to between 96,000,000 and 108,000,000 bushels. According to this report, the crop of Western Australia is officially placed at 34,000,000 bushels, while private estimates were divided between 33,000,000 and 35,000,000 bushels. For the three eastern states, private estimates ranged from 18,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels for South Australia, about 20,000,000 for Victoria, and 25,000,000 to 27,000,000 for New South Wales. The correspondent gives the following details of harvest conditions, probable surplus and old stocks:

> "Crop conditions since the end of September have improved in New South Wales, and since the rains at the end of October in Victoria and South Australia, their prospects have brightened, but unfortunately the rains were too late for the Eastern States to ensure a general recovery. It now looks as though the Commonwealth will have an export surplus in the shape of wheat and flour from the new crop of about 50,000,000 bushels. If prices advance there might be a little more, but on the short crop the Eastern States at any rate are not likely to press sales especially while international prices are so low. From the early harvestings it would seem as though the quality of new wheat will be good, the natural weight of which should be quite equal to last year. The visible stocks of old wheat in Australia are very small. They would not aggregate 3,000,000 bushels, but the invisible stocks and flour might be another 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 bushels."

Movement to market

Total wheat shipments from the principal exporting countries during the week ending December 10 amounted to 20,318,000 bushels as compared with a weekly average of 20,543,000 bushels during the month of November. Exports from the United States during the week were 3,266,000 bushels, making a total of 143,000,000 bushels for the season as compared with 158,000,000 bushels last season. Argentina shipped 1,480,000 bushels, some of which was new wheat. See table, page [illegible].

French duty on wheat now on pre-war basis

The recent increase in the French import duty on wheat from 25 to 35 Francs per 100 kilos ([illegible] to 37.[illegible] cents per bushel) marks the restoration, in effect, of the pre-war duty on this commodity. The pre-war (1913) rate of 7 francs per 100 kilos was equivalent to [illegible] cents per bushel. The new duty, which became effective on November 1[illegible], 1927, is the second increase within a period of three months. The first increase took place on September 4, 1927, when the duty was raised from the equivalent

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of 19.42 cents to 26.75 cents per bushel. These increases have been made in response to the active demands of the French wheat growers for the past several years. Press dispatches received from France at the time indicate that the increased rates would have a tendency to increase fall sowing and that it was expected to increase the acreage sufficiently to at least maintain last season's seedings. The new rate is the so-called minimum tariff and applies to imports from all countries except the French dependencies of Algeria and Tunis, from which imports are free of duty.

For many years France has been unable to produce sufficient wheat to meet her domestic requirements and has found it necessary to supply the deficit by imports from other countries. It is not expected, therefore, that the increase in the tariff will have any material effect on the importation of wheat during the current year; in fact, the 1927 wheat crop is not only considerably below the annual requirements but is is said to be of such a quality as to make it necessary to import considerable quantities of wheat from other countries for blending with the domestic wheat, in order to secure the best results in bread making.

The import requirements vary from year to year and depend upon the size and quality of the domestic crop. During the crop year 1926-27, for example, when the French wheat crop (for 1926) was reported at 231,767,000 bushels, the French imports (wheat only) amounted to 53,246,138 bushels. Of this amount, 20,253,373 bushels are credited to the United States. The export returns for the United States, however, show only 16,079,201 bushels as having been exported to France during that period. This discrepancy is probably explained by the fact that Canadian wheat which was exported via United States ports was credited to the United States in the French customs returns. During the preceding 12 months (year ending June 30, 1926), imports from the United States are reported at 5,167,476 bushels out of a total of 35,616,459 bushels. The remainder has been supplied in varying amounts, chiefly by Canada, Australia, Argentina, Russia, and the French dependencies in northern Africa.

Increased rates on flour became effective at the same time, the rates varying according to the percentage of extraction. However, France imports relatively little flour. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, the total French imports amounted to only 63,517 barrels, compared with 80,391 barrels imported during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926.

United States wheat prices

After a week of slightly lower prices, the weighted average cash price of all classes and grades of wheat strengthened during the week ending December 9 and advanced to a new high level since the low point reached during the last week of October. This advance amounted to 2 cents, or from

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$1.26 to $1.28. All classes of wheat contributed to the rise as No. 2 hard winter advanced 3 cents, No. 1 dark northern spring 3 cents, No. 2 amber durum 5 cents, and No. 2 soft winter advanced 7 cents. This is the first abrupt change in No. 2 red winter for several weeks and at $1.47 the price of this grade of wheat for the week is only 2 cents under the high point of the season. As is shown in the table below, the weighted average cash price of all classes and grades of wheat as compared with prices a year ago is 12 cents under, No. 2 hard winter is only 5 cents under, No. 1 dark northern spring is 12 cents under, No. 2 amber durum is 40 cents under, but No. 2 soft red winter is 8 cents above. Cash prices have not changed materially since the week ending December 9, but have weakened somewhat as indicated by lower future prices. The spread between the cash closing prices at Winnipeg and Minneapolis changed from Winnipeg's favor to that of Minneapolis during the week. The spread was 1 cent in favor of Minneapolis for the week ending December 9 as compared with 2 cents in Winnipeg's favor the previous week.

WHEAT: Weighted average cash prices at stated markets

Week ending	All classes and grades 6 markets		No. 2 Hard Winter Kansas City		No. 1 Dk.N.Spring Minneapolis		No. 2 Amber Durum Minneapolis		No. 2 Red Winter St. Louis	
	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
November 4	140	123	138	128	149	132	163	121	137	143
11	141	126	139	130	150	135	166	130	139	142
18	135	127	134	131	145	133	155	130	134	142
25	135	127	136	134	144	134	160	128	134	140
December 2	138	126	137	132	146	134	164	127	138	140
9	139	128	139	134	149	137	172	132	139	147

WHEAT: Closing prices of May futures

Date	Chicago		Kansas City		Minneapolis		Winnipeg		Liverpool	
	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
December 1	140	135	135	129	143	130	135	138	151	149
8	141	134	135	127	143	130	135	137	152	150
15	140	130	134	124	142	126	134	135	149	149
22	141		135		143		136		153	

Future prices have declined quite materially since the week ending December 9. The weakness in future prices may be attributed to larger

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Liverpool prices and uncertainty as to the Argentine official crop report due December 16. There also has been a large increase in the Canadian visible supply and trade reports to the effect that European demand for North American wheat has subsided. Comparing the price of May futures on December 15 with those of the week before, they were 4 cents lower at Chicago and Minneapolis, 3 cents lower at Kansas City, 2 cents lower at Winnipeg and 1 cent lower at Liverpool.

Rye production

The 1927 rye crop in Poland is 223,924,000 bushels, according to the revised estimate as cabled to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. A previous estimate issued in August had placed the crop at 235,597,000 bushels. The final estimate of the 1926 crop was 197,289,000 bushels, the 1925 crop 257,408,000 bushels, and the 1924 crop 143,882,000 bushels. The foregoing figures were received too late to be included in the table on page 830.

BARLEY

The estimates for barley production have not been changed during the past week, except for a small upward revision in the crops of England and Wales. The 37 countries so far reported show a production of 1,241,165,000 bushels, which is 5.6 per cent above that of last year.

The demand for English malting barley in Great Britain had fallen off to some extent during the early part of November, according to a trade report, owing to the scarcity of fine quality and the generous supply coming from the Balkans and other parts of Europe. The report states that more varieties of malting barley are being offered now than at any time since the war, including Polish, Slovakian, New Zealand, Tasmanian, Californian, Chilean, Australian and North African. Prices of malting barley are said to have remained steady, depending on samples, while feed barley has been in poor demand, with unfavorable prices.

According to the "Commercial Intelligence Journal" of Ottawa, the following prices ruled in the United Kingdom on November 2 for the chief imported barleys:

	Price per bushel		Price per bushel
Californian (Bay Type)	\$1.33 - \$1.55	Slovakian	\$1.67 - \$1.87
Californian (Mariout Type	1.33 - 1.47	Moravian	1.72 - 1.92
Californian (Chevalier)	1.53 - 1.57	Polish	1.04 - 1.21
Australian (Chevalier)	1.41 - 1.53	Danubian	1.04 - 1.08
Bohemian	1.51 - 1.92	Tunisian	1.08 - 1.15

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Exports of barley from the United States for the week ending December 10 were the heaviest of the season, amounting to 2,442,000 bushels. Since July 1 the exports have been more than three times as large as last year.

OATS

During the past week the estimated oats production of England and Wales has been raised by 3,600,000 bushels, while the earlier estimates for Rumania, France and Spain have also been increased a little. This raises the total oats production of the 25 European countries reported to 1,735,755,000 bushels, or 96.7 per cent of last year's production, while the total for the 30 Northern Hemisphere countries is only 0.9 per cent below that of last year. Exports of oats from the United States for the week ending December 10 have been very light, and in Canada and in Europe the trade in oats has been rather inactive. In the table on page 796 of "Foreign Crops and Markets" for December 12, 1927 the figure for oats production in the United States for 1927 should read 1,205,639,000 bushels instead of 1,250,639,000 bushels.

CORN

Corn production in Italy for 1927 is now estimated at over 100,000,000 bushels, according to the first official advices. That figure is 85 per cent of last year's crop. Earlier unofficial reports had placed the 1927 crop at 92,000,000 bushels. The first estimate for North Manchuria is 42,429,000 bushels, which is 3.3 per cent below that of last year. There was also a slight downward revision for France. These changes raise the estimated total for the 16 countries so far reported to 3,283,185,000 bushels, or 1.9 per cent below last year's production.

The feeding of corn to poultry now constitutes an important item in the European consumption of this grain, according to H. B. Smith, special representative in Europe of the Department of Commerce. He estimates that one-third of the domestic imports of corn into the Netherlands are used for this purpose. He also states that the poultry consumption in Belgium and the United Kingdom is important, and that even in Germany, where poultry raising is less highly organized, there is an increasing volume being so used.

During the week ending December 10, exports of corn from Argentina continued above the 5,000,000-bushel mark. Assuming that the carryover and the amount to be retained for consumption previously reported are correct, there would have been an exportable surplus of not much more than 20,000,000 bushels left in Argentina after the first of December. During the same week, exports from the United States amounted to 167,000 bushels, an average amount for the last few months, when exports have been lighter than for the same time last year. During that week, corn prices remained high, No. 3 yellow at Chicago being quoted at 91.7 cents at the end of the week, but by December 13 the price was down to 86.4 cents.

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CROP AND MARKET PROSPECTS, CONT'D

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POTATOES

The first estimate of the 1927 potato crop in Italy is 70,915,000 bushels or about 14,000,000 bushels below the 1926 crop. The estimate of the crop in England and Wales has been raised from 111,440,000 bushels to 114,051,000 bushels. The total production in 21 European countries is 4,209,000,000 bushels, an increase of 666,000,000 bushels over the 1926 crop for the same countries. See table, page 832.

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COTTON

Seeding of cotton in Argentina was held up on account of drought, according to cabled information received by the International Institute of Agriculture on November 16. It is estimated that the area planted to Sea Island cotton in St. Vincent, British West Indies, for the present season, is considerably smaller than that of last season, according to the International Institute of Agriculture. On the whole, the weather in St. Vincent has been dry this season but bolls have been slow in opening.

Cotton production in Egypt for this season is estimated at 1,250,000 bales of 478 pounds net compared with 1,497,000 bales last year, a decrease of 16.5 per cent, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture.

Area planted to cotton this season in Punjab, India, up to December 1 is estimated at 2,086,000 acres and in Madras 1,650,000 acres compared with 2,780,000 acres and 1,908,000 acres, respectively, planted in these provinces up to the same date last year, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture. Yields from these areas are estimated at 526,000 bales of 478 pounds net for Punjab and 281,000 bales for Madras compared with 480,000 bales and 291,000 bales, respectively, for last season. Total production in Punjab last year amounted to 500,000 bales and in Madras 335,000 bales, the yield in the two provinces amounting to 20 per cent of cotton production for all India.

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SUGAR

The prospects in Porto Rico are for a bumper sugar cane crop, according to a report from Assistant Trade Commissioner J. R. McKey at San Juan. The damage to the sugar cane crop by the heavy rains during the latter part of November was confined to small areas in the northeast and is more than offset by the benefits resulting elsewhere, especially in the southern part of the island.

CROP AND MARKET PROSPECTS, CONT'D

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A new variety of sugar cane which is said to withstand the diseases common to sugar cane is being extensively planted in Java, according to a report from Vice Consul Gerald A. Mokma at Soerabaya, Java. The new variety, known as 2878 POJ (2878 Proefstation Oost Java) has been developed by the Sugar Experiment Station in East Java. The older types of sugar cane grown in Java have necessitated the use of plantations devoted exclusively to the growing of seedlings which were later transplanted to the regular fields. No transplanting is necessary with the new cane variety, which is planted directly in the field where it is to be harvested. As a result, the sugar mills are no longer dependent on the above mentioned plantations for their seedlings and many such plantations are being closed or are having their production curtailed. Large tracts of land, therefore, will be available for the cultivation of other crops. Vice Consul Mokma states, however, that it is feared that, temporarily at least, thousands of natives will be thrown out of work until these plantations can be converted into producing other crops.

The seedling plantation has been a flourishing industry in Java since 1887. At that time it was discovered that sugar cane sprouts grown in the mountains and transplanted to the fields in the low lands were not affected by the "Sereh" disease, which was then so prevalent in Java that the sugar industry was facing ruin. Former Vice Consul D. M. White in a report of November 13, 1926, stated that the sugar cane seedling plantations covered about 26,000 acres of land.

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TOBACCO

The continued heavy precipitation is further retarding tobacco planting in Porto Rico, reports Trade Commissioner J. R. McKey at San Juan, on November 26, 1927, confirming an earlier report. See "Foreign Crops and Markets", Vol. 15, No. 22, November 28, 1927, p. 72[illegible]. It has been estimated that the acreage for the next crop will be about 40 per cent less than the last, which was approximately 85,000 acres, states the commissioner. The official estimate of the 1927 tobacco acreage, issued in the spring, placed it at 77,000 acres, yielding a crop estimated at [illegible],000 pounds.

The 1927-28 tobacco crop of Bahia, the largest tobacco-producing state of Brazil, has been seriously damaged by drought, and is estimated at from 30,800,000 pounds to 38,500,000 pounds, according to a report of November 25, 1927, from Consul Howard Donovan at Bahia, quoting trade sources. An earlier estimate reported by the consul on July 2, 1927, placed the new crop at approximately 61,000,000 to 62,000,000 pounds. The 1926-27 crop has been variously estimated from [illegible],000,000 to 77,000,000 pounds, according to the report of Consul Donovan of February 17, 1927.

CROP AND MARKET PROSPECTS, CONT'D

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Indications point to a 1927 tobacco crop in Algeria as small as or smaller than last year, although no figures of production or acreage are available. In the Department of Algiers, which in 1925 comprised approximately 38 per cent of the total Algerian tobacco area, drought has hindered the development of the plants in many fields, according to a report of November 19, 1927 from Consul General Lewis W. Haskell at Algiers. In the district around Bona, which in 1925 comprised 40 per cent of the Algerian tobacco acreage, the harvest is considered to be satisfactory on the whole as to quality, in spite of some damage caused by the sirocco winds, states the consul. Tobacco grown in this district is prized on account of its light yellow color. The great bulk of Algerian production is smoking tobacco, the area planted to snuff, the other type grown in the country, constituting only 3 per cent of the total area in 1925, the latest year for which detailed figures are available. Algerian tobacco production in 1926 is estimated by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome at 27,183,000 pounds from an area of 61,800 acres, a considerable reduction from the record year 1925, when 80,673 acres were planted, yielding a bumper crop of 65,655,000 pounds.

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FLAX FIBER

Flax fiber production in nine European countries reported to date amounts to 437,592,000 pounds for this season, compared with 424,004,000 pounds produced in these countries in 1926, which was 35 per cent of the estimated world total for that year. No estimate of production has been received for this season from Russia, the largest flax fiber producing country, but it is reported that the crop will be somewhat below last year's crop, according to a cable received from Acting Agricultural Commissioner Steere at Berlin. Russia produced 647,941,000 pounds of fiber in 1926, or 53 per cent of the estimated world production. Procurements of flax were delayed this season, having begun during the latter part of October, according to "Economic Life" of October 21, 1927. They proceeded from then on at a rapid rate until the middle of the month when they slackened on account of rainy weather. The quality of the new fiber is said to be very good, much better than last year's fiber. See Foreign Service release, F.S. #HE-32, December 9, 1927.

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LIVESTOCK, MEAT AND WOOL

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Hogs and pork

BRITISH NOVEMBER PORK SUPPLIES: Bacon imports into Great Britain for November reached 79,520,000 pounds, according to preliminary figures cabled by E. A. Foley, American Agricultural Commissioner at London. The November imports were slightly lower than those of October owing to reduced receipts from all sources except Denmark, that country sending 50,176,000 pounds. Bacon imports, however, continue well above last year. Total imports of hams stood at 5,824,000 pounds, a decrease below the preceding month of 1,904,000 pounds. Lard imports, however, ran to 21,058,000 pounds, a substantial increase over both October 1927 and November 1926.

The London Central Markets continue to be undersupplied with fresh pork, although the 10,052,000 pounds handled there during November from all sources was only 1,616,000 pounds under November 1925, and about 3,500,000 pounds in excess of last year. The November figures indicate the nearest approach to replacing continental supplies with home-produced pork. Liverpool stocks of hams, bacon and shoulders stood at 2,644,000 pounds on November 30 against 4,168,000 pounds on October 31, while lard stocks were also materially reduced at 1,738,000 pounds.

Sheep and wool

FOREIGN WOOL PRICES HIGHER: The upward trend in wool prices at the London Wool Sales continued during the latter part of November and first half of December, according to information received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner Foley at London. Prices of most grades at the close of the sixth series on December 13 were 5 to 7-1/2 per cent above the closing rates of the previous series, although there was some weakness in greasy fine merinos, which averaged about par to 5 per cent lower. Fine and medium crossbreds were 5 to 7-1/2 per cent higher, low crossbreds 10 per cent higher, fine slipes 5 to 7-1/2 per cent higher, medium and low slipes par to 5 per cent higher, greasy capes 5 to 7-1/2 per cent higher, and scoured capes 5 to 10 per cent higher.

Prices of English wool at Bradford have been firmly established at higher levels, reports Consul Thompson at Bradford. Early in December, quotations of tops were maintained at the highest point for the season, but there was little new business. Demand for piece goods was improving both at home and abroad. Wholesale houses were showing a disposition to meet the higher quotations. Prices of tops at Bradford the second week in December showed little change, as spinners were well supplied with tops bought at prices lower than the current rates. Yarn prices were slightly higher and the market firm. The settlement of the shipping strike in Australia added some strength to the market.

L I V E S T O C K, M E A T A N D W O O L, C O N T'D

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At the second wool sale at Wellington, which opened on December 6, prices of super and fine sorts were maintained at the November levels, but lower grades declined, according to a cable from Consul General Lowrie. Bradford was an active buyer and the United States took super lots of merinos. See Foreign Service release, F.S./SW-25, December 16, 1927.

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F R U I T, V E G E T A B L E S A N D N U T S

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THE BRITISH APPLE MARKET: The market for American apples in the United Kingdom during the past week as reflected by prices paid during the auction in Liverpool on Wednesday, December 14, shows a slight improvement for barreled stock, but a decline for most of the boxed varieties, according to quotations cabled by Mr. Edwin Smith, the Department's Fruit Specialist in Europe. In general it can be said that the demand for highly colored barreled stock was higher but unchanged for poorly colored stock. The demand for boxed apples, on the other hand, was distinctly dull except in the case of Extra Fancy Yellow Newtowns from Oregon, the 150, 163/175 sizes of which brought from $4.20 to $4.38 per box against $3.77 to $4.01 for the same size and grade last week. The Christmas fruit trade in the United Kingdom is very bad and buying power is worse than anticipated, states Mr. Smith. See Foreign Service release, F.S./A-142, December 16, 1927.

THE HAMBURG APPLE MARKET: Prices paid for American apples at the Hamburg auction on Thursday, December 15, show an upward tendency for both barreled and boxed varieties, according to quotations cabled by Mr. Edwin Smith, the Department's Fruit Specialist in Europe. Virginia York Imperials, U. S. No. 1, 2-1/4 inch, in good condition, brought from $6.08 to $8.52 per barrel as against $4.87 to $6.33 per barrel paid last week, an increase of from $1.00 to $2.00 per barrel. The increase on Virginia Ben Davis ranged from 75 cents to $1.20 per barrel over last week's quotations.

GERMAN DUTY ON PRUNES REDUCED: A reduction in the German import duty on prunes will become effective on December 20. On that date the commercial treaty between Germany and Yugoslavia goes into effect by mutual agreement, according to cabled advices to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Acting Agricultural Commissioner Steere at Berlin. The new duty will be 65 cents per 100 pounds for prunes unpacked or in barrels of at least 176 pounds as compared with the present rate of $1.08. For prunes otherwise packed, the reduction is even more noteworthy as the new duty will be 85 cents for 100 pounds against the prevailing rate of $2.16. Although the treaty providing for these rates was negotiated between Germany and Yugoslavia, the United States will enjoy the lower rates because this country has a most-

FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND NUTS, CONT'D

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favored nation clause in its commercial treaty with Germany. Germany is the world's largest importer of prunes and Yugoslavia and the United States are the principal sources of supply. The reduction in the German duty will be of particular advantage in the shipment of boxed prunes since the high duty heretofore prevailing made it necessary to ship most of the prunes destined for Germany in bulk.

AMERICAN LEMONS MEET INCREASING COMPETITION IN NEW ZEALAND: Australian lemons have been given a material advantage over the California product in the New Zealand market as a result of the recent change in the New Zealand tariff, which raises the duty on foreign lemons from 2 cents to 4 cents per pound, but gives lemons from Australia a preference of 2 cents per pound, according to a report received in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul Walter F. Boyle at Auckland, New Zealand. Heretofore imported lemons from all sources were dutiable in New Zealand at 2 cents per pound. The New Zealand imports of lemons during the five years 1922-26 averaged 1,103,000 pounds annually, practically all of which were supplied by Australia, the United States and Italy. The prohibition on imports into New Zealand of fruits, vegetables, grains, etc., from California, during 1925 and up to September 18, 1926, enabled lemon shippers in Australia and Italy to capture the market formerly supplied mainly by the United States. As a result of the embargo, imports from Australia increased from an average of 284,000 pounds during the three years 1922-24 to 628,000 pounds in 1925, but declined in 1926 to 502,000 pounds. Imports from Italy increased from an average of only 33,000 pounds in 1922-24 to 472,000 pounds in 1925 and 512,000 pounds in 1926. See Foreign Service release F.S./CF-48, December 16, 1927.

EXPANSION IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITRUS: That the South African citrus fruit industry is growing rapidly is amply evidenced by the results of a special census of commercial citrus fruit trees recently made by the Office of Census and Statistics of the Union of South Africa. According to this census, there are in the Union at the present time 2,535,000 commercial orange trees, 97,590 commercial grapefruit trees, and 516,000 trees of other citrus fruit such as tangerines and lemons. The census shows that 59 per cent of the orange trees and 84 per cent of the grapefruit trees are below five years of age, from which the conclusion may be drawn that within a relatively short period twice the volume of citrus fruit will be coming forward for export from South Africa than is the case at present. Moreover, the census shows that an additional 671,730 orange and 106,095 grapefruit trees are to be planted within the next two or three years. See Foreign Service release, F.S./CF-47, December 14, 1927.

HEAVY RAINS DAMAGE MEXICAN WEST COAST VEGETABLES: Heavy rain in the vicinity of San Blas, Sinaloa, Mexico, has caused serious damage to the Mexican West Coast vegetable crop and the destruction of the railway bridge at that station will retard transportation to Nogales, Arizona, for

F R U I T, V E G E T A B L E S A N D N U T S, C O N T'D

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about ten days, according to a telegram received from Consul Wm. P. Blocker at Mazatlan. No information has been received as yet relative to the effect of the rains and the destruction of the bridge on shipments to the American market but San Blas is situated in the Fuerte River valley which ships out 50 per cent of all the vegetables moving to the American market from the Mexican West Coast. Approximately 90 per cent of these shipments consist of tomatoes, Peas, peppers and cantaloupes make up most of the other products shipped from the Fuerte River valley. Most of the other Mexican West Coast vegetables grow in the river valleys south of San Blas and the Fuerte River. The first shipments of tomatoes of the 1927-28 season crossed the border from the Mexican West Coast into the United States at Nogales on November 19, 1927.

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D A I R Y P R O D U C T S

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FALL IN BUTTER PRICES IN EUROPEAN MARKETS: Prices of butter in important European markets have now fallen to a level which places United States markets definitely on an import basis. On December 15 the Copenhagen official quotation was reduced to the equivalent of 36.7 cents a pound or 3.7 cents below the previous week. With a half-cent rise during the week to 52.0 cents on 92 score butter in New York, the margin was widened to 15.3 cents. This is sufficiently in excess of the 12 cent import duty to make foreign offerings a factor in domestic markets. New Zealand and Australian were lower by 2 cents at the equivalent of around 34 cents on salted butter. The increase in supplies now forthcoming from the Southern Hemisphere is the principal depressing influence in the London market and is reflected in the Copenhagen quotation. For detailed comparative price statement for principal butter markets based on quotations cabled by American agricultural commissioners, see page 836.

AUSTRALIAN BUTTER PRODUCTION APPROACHING OUTPUT OF YEAR AGO: Recent improvement in conditions affecting butter production in the Australian dairy states has been so marked as to bring the output generally close to the volume of a year ago. In Victoria, weather conditions were ideal for dairying, according to latest available information as of November 12. New South Wales and Queensland had at that time begun to develop a substantial export surplus. General rains had brought about a condition that promised from then on an excellent export season. A table showing the arrivals of butter at certain Australian grading ports appearson the following page.

D A I R Y P R O D U C T S, C O N T'D

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BUTTER: Arrivals at certain Australian grading ports

Port	Week ending Nov. 5, 1927	Corresponding week year ago	Week ending Nov. 12, 1927	Corresponding week year ago
	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes
Sydney, New South Wales....	20,257	23,742	21,438	21,818
Melbourne, Victoria.......	39,182	48,346	40,105	46,809
Brisbane, Queensland.......	9,011	6,834	11,558	5,109
Total...............	68,450	78,872	73,109	73,736

Compiled from reports by Prescott, At., Sydney, November 5 and 12, 1927.

CANADA SHIPS MORE CHEESE AND LESS CREAM TO UNITED STATES: Shipments of cheese from Canada to the United States during October were considerably larger than in previous months this season. Cream exports to the United States, on the other hand, fell off. As compared with October of last year, however, shipments of cream, milk and cheese were about one-third lighter. A year ago cheese shipments from Canada to this country were greatly stimulated by the depression in British markets growing out of the prolonged labor disturbances in Great Britain. During October of last year, 2,867,000 pounds of Canadian cheese were diverted to United States markets. Although British markets have been much stronger this fall, October shipments of Canadian cheese to our markets totaled 1,942,000 pounds. For the 10 months, January to October inclusive, cheese shipments totaled 10,129,000 pounds this year against 5,014,000 pounds for the corresponding period last year.

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CUBA ISSUES RULING ON MARKING OF EGGS

The Cuban Customs Department has ruled that American eggs, when individually marked "HUEVOS AMERICANOS", will be entered for duty purposes at 8 cents per dozen, according to cabled advices received by the United States Department of Commerce. The wording of the stamp required under the new ruling is Spanish for "American eggs". Eggs not so marked will be subject to the duty of 12 cents per dozen when imported from the United States, as provided for in Paragraph 252 of the new Cuban tariff act which became effective on October 26, 1927. This ruling supersedes the provisional ruling made some time ago (see "Foreign Crops and Markets", December 5, 1927) that eggs when individually marked should be stamped with the name of the country and state of origin. The rates of duty here shown apply only to eggs imported from the United States. Imports from other countries will be subject to rates of 10 cents and 15 cents per dozen on marked and unmarked eggs, respectively.

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CEREAL CROPS: Production, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Crop and Countries reporting in 1927 a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
WHEAT	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Percent
United States	690,108	864,428	676,429	832,809	866,538	104.1
Canada	197,119	262,097	411,376	409,811	444,282	10[illegible]
Mexico	11,431	10,557	9,440	10,333	11,519	111.5
North America (3)	898,708	1,136,382	1,097,245	1,252,953	1,322,339	105.5
Europe, 23 countries previously reported	1,151,762	869,967	1,175,633	1,000,432	1,042,933	104.2
England and Wales	55,770	50,865	50,773	43,683	53,131	109.1
Spain	130,446	121,778	162,591	146,600	146,422	99.[illegible]
Total Europe (25)	1,337,978	1,042,660	1,388,997	1,195,765	1,242,436	103.9
North Africa, 3 countries previously reported	56,886	68,027	71,898	66,425	74,659	112.4
Algeria	35,161	17,285	32,670	23,551	27,557	117.0
Total North Africa (4)	92,047	85,312	104,558	89,976	102,216	113.6
Asia (4)	384,150	399,372	374,761	367,236	375,367	102.[illegible]
Argentina	147,059	191,138	191,141	220,827	b/230,000	104.[illegible]
Australia	90,497	164,559	114,504	160,858	115,000	71.5
Total above 38 count.	2,950,419	3,019,893	3,271,206	3,287,615	3,387,408	103.0
Est. N. Hemis. excl Russia and China	2,759,000	2,732,000	3,038,000	2,979,000		
Est. World excl. Russia and China	3,041,000	3,142,000	3,400,000	3,417,000		
RYE						
United States	36,093	65,466	46,456	41,010	61,[illegible]	149.9
Canada	2,094	13,751	13,688	12,114	16,070	132.7
North America (2)	38,187	79,217	60,144	53,[illegible]	77,554	146.0
Europe (23)	957,392	640,668	924,390	733,[illegible]	817,810	111.5
Total above 25 count.	995,579	719,885	984,534	786,460	895,364	113.8
Est. N. Hemis. total excl. Russia & China	1,023,000	739,000	1,006,000	808,000		
Est. world total excl. Russia and China	1,025,000	742,000	1,013,000	813,000		

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.
b/ Statistical forecast on basis of weather conditions.

CEREAL CROPS: Production, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927, continued

Crop and countries reporting in 1927 a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
BARLEY						
United States	184,812	181,575	213,863	188,340	264,703	140.5
North America (2)	230,037	270,382	326,531	288,024	362,945	126.0
Europe, 25 countries previously reported and unchanged	635,981	518,691	634,376	636,488	621,834	97.7
England and Wales	50,658	46,572	47,133	42,747	40,234	94.1
Total 26 European countries	686,639	565,263	681,509	679,235	662,068	97.5
North Africa (5)	105,467	87,139	103,937	67,445	93,946	139.3
Asia (4)	134,627	119,396	140,099	140,156	122,206	87.2
Total above 37 countries	1,156,820	1,042,180	1,252,076	1,174,860	1,241,165	105.6
Estimated N. Hemis. total ex. Russia and China	1,407,000	1,288,000	1,487,000	1,405,000		
Estimated world total ex. Russia & China	1,425,000	1,310,000	1,523,000	1,440,000		
OATS						
United States	1,143,407	1,502,529	1,487,550	1,250,019	1,205,639	96.4
North America (2)	1,495,097	1,908,505	2,000,934	1,633,438	1,658,060	101.5
Europe, 21 countries previously reported and unchanged	1,266,790	1,042,331	1,165,512	1,209,006	1,169,250	96.7
England and Wales	96,913	104,930	96,600	104,300	94,040	90.2
France	368,462	305,535	327,645	364,120	373,879	102.7
Spain	29,110	28,792	43,444	37,688	39,889	105.8
Rumania	59,776	42,013	50,986	79,850	58,697	73.5
Total 25 European countries	1,821,051	1,523,601	1,684,187	1,794,964	1,735,755	96.7
North Africa (3)	17,631	11,755	19,489	11,455	16,036	140.4
Total above 30 countries	3,333,779	3,443,861	3,704,610	3,439,857	3,409,901	99.1
Estimated N. Hemis. total ex. Russia and China	3,474,000	3,573,000	3,842,000	3,587,000		
Estimated world total ex. Russia & China	3,581,000	3,675,000	3,959,000	3,691,000		

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

Continued-

CEREAL CROPS: Production, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927, continued

Crop and countries reporting in 1927 a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
CORN						
United States	2,712,364	2,309,414	2,916,961	2,646,853	2,753,249	104.0
North America (2).	2,729,661	2,321,412	2,927,525	2,654,668	2,757,604	103.9
Europe, 8 countries previously reported and unchanged	378,780	443,658	474,128	510,904	352,556	69.0
France	22,467	18,027	20,003	12,423	21,510	173.1
Italy	102,676	105,679	109,964	118,090	100,388	85.0
Total 10 European countries	503,923	567,364	604,095	641,417	474,454	74.0
North Africa (2) ...	3,728	4,134	3,964	4,497	6,082	135.2
North Manchuria	(27,000)	36,113	43,206	43,899	42,429	96.7
Total 2 Asiatic countries	29,300	39,262	45,558	47,533	45,045	94.8
Total above 16 countries	3,266,612	2,932,172	3,581,142	3,348,115	3,283,185	98.1
Estimated N.Hemis. total ex. Russia...	3,681,000	3,298,000	3,902,000	3,685,000		
Estimated world total ex. Russia	4,126,000	3,844,000	4,502,000	4,372,000		

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

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POTATOES: Production, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Countries reporting in 1927 a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	357,699	421,585	323,465	356,123	400,305	112.4
Canada	77,843	94,413	70,632	81,137	79,879	98.4
North America (2) ..	435,542	515,998	394,097	437,260	480,184	109.8
Europe, 19 count. prev. rept'd & unchanged ..	3,714,228	3,774,074	4,215,269	3,354,433	4,023,634	119.9
England and Wales	99,893	100,651	119,989	103,152	114,051	110.6
Italy	67,514	71,943	80,383	84,914	70,915	83.5
Europe (21)	3,881,635	3,946,668	4,415,641	3,542,499	4,208,600	118.8
Total above 23 count.	4,317,177	4,462,666	4,809,738	3,979,759	4,688,784	117.8
Est. N. Hemis. excl. Russia and China..	4,647,000	4,799,000	5,225,000	4,338,000		
Est. world total excl. Russia and China..	4,722,000	4,872,000	5,299,000			

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

COTTON: Area and production in countries reporting for 1927-28, with comparisons

Item and Country	Average 1909-10 to 1913-14	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	Percent 1927-28 is of 1926-27
AREA	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
United States	34,152	46,053	47,087	40,168	85.3
Uganda	58	617	570	540	94.7
Yugoslavia		2	2	2	100.0
Syria and Lebanon		79	77	76	98.7
Bulgaria	2	8	7	13	185.7
Other countries previously reporting and unchanged a/	22,082	27,103	26,511	24,916	94.0
Total above countries		73,862	74,254	65,715	88.5
Estimated world total ex. China	62,500	83,400	81,300		
PRODUCTION b/					
United States	13,033	16,104	17,977	12,789	71.1
Egypt	1,453	1,629	1,497	1,250	83.5
Bulgaria	1	2	3	4	133.3
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	14	107	130	126	96.9
Other countries previously reported and unchanged c/		162	182	171	94.0
Total above countries		18,004	19,789	14,340	72.5
Estimated world total including China	20,900	27,900	28,000		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.
a/ Includes Egypt, India (incomplete), Russia, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Chosen, Italy, Syria and Algeria.
b/ Bales of 478 pounds net.
c/ Includes Chosen, Tanganyika, Syria and Algeria.

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GRAINS: Exports from the United States, July 1-December 10, 1926 and 1927
PORK: Exports from the United States, Jan. 1-December 10, 1926 and 1927

Commodity	July 1-Dec. 10		1927, week ending			
	1926	1927 a/	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10
GRAINS	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Wheat b/	104,945	115,298	4,381	2,703	3,072	2,298
Wheat flour c/	33,290	27,650	1,123	771	1,443	963
Rye	5,205	18,454	226	694	165	253
Corn	6,728	3,000	319	69	211	167
Oats	2,550	3,493	97	24	67	15
Barley b/	8,427	26,794	958	1,144	697	2,442
	Jan. 1-Dec. 10					
PORK:	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Hams & shoulders, inc Wilt. sides	178,921	110,324	942	938	319	506
Bacon, incl Cumb. sides	157,573	106,883	984	1,513	2,092	2,914
Lard	658,913	624,838	9,877	10,351	6,038	11,731
Pickled pork	27,643	26,962	195	219	400	232

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
a/ Corrected to October 31, 1927. b/ Including via Pacific ports this week: Wheat 1,584,000 bushels, flour 28,500 barrels. Barley from San Francisco 67,000. c/ Includes flour milled in bond from Canadian wheat. In terms of bushels of wheat.

WHEAT: Shipments from principal countries, average November 1926, 1927, weekly November 10-December 10, 1927

Country	1926 Weekly av Nov	1927 Weekly av Nov	1927, week ending Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina	133	1,202	796	1,764	597	1,480
Australia	317	393	384	304	720	264
British India	198	128	208	144	0	32
Canada a/	14,022	18,914	18,480	21,155	22,648	14,981
Danube and Bulgaria	421	86	64	152	138	7?
Russia	1,454	530	30	234	684	224
United States	5,197	5,290	5,504	3,473	4,515	3,266
Total	21,742	26,543	25,516	27,214	29,272	20,319

Compiled from official sources and Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin.
a/ Shipments from Fort William, Port Arthur and Vancouver.

BUTTER: Prices in London, Berlin, Copenhagen and New York, in cents per pound
(Foreign prices by weekly cable)

Market and Item	December 8, 1927	December 15 1927	December 16, 1926
	Cents	Cents	Cents
New York, 92 score..............	51.50	52.00	47.00
Copenhagen, official quotation....	40.36	36.71	36.51
Berlin, la quality..............	40.63	38.25	36.74
London: a/			
Danish..........................	42.47	39.54	40.93
Dutch, unsalted.................	43.02	41.50	42.23
New Zealand.....................	36.28	34.33	b/
New Zealand, unsalted...........	39.97	37.37	b/
Australian......................	36.06	33.89	36.50
Australian, unsalted............	38.62	35.41	36.93
Argentine, unsalted.............	35.20	33.24	32.15
Siberian........................	34.11	32.59	33.67

Quotations converted at par exchange. a/ Quotations of following day.
b/ No quotation.

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EUROPEAN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT MARKETS
(By weekly cable)

Market and Item	Unit	Week ending Dec. 7, 1927	Dec. 14, 1927	Dec. 15, 1926
GERMANY:				
Receipts of hogs, 14 markets...	Number	85,179	91,830	58,606
Prices of hogs, Berlin.........	$ per 100 lbs.	12.16	11.72	15.72
Prices of lard, tcs., Hamburg..	"	14.20	13.91	14.89
UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND:				
Hogs, certain markets, England	Number	19,930	b/	19,622
Hogs, purchases, Ireland.......	"	29,292	b/	
Prices at Liverpool:				
American Wiltshire sides.....	$ per 100 lbs.	a/	b/	a/
Canadian " "	"	a/	b/	20.86
Danish " "	"	19.42	b/	22.81

a/ No quotation. b/ Cable not received in time for publication.

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